

Parrot Time

The Thinking of Speaking

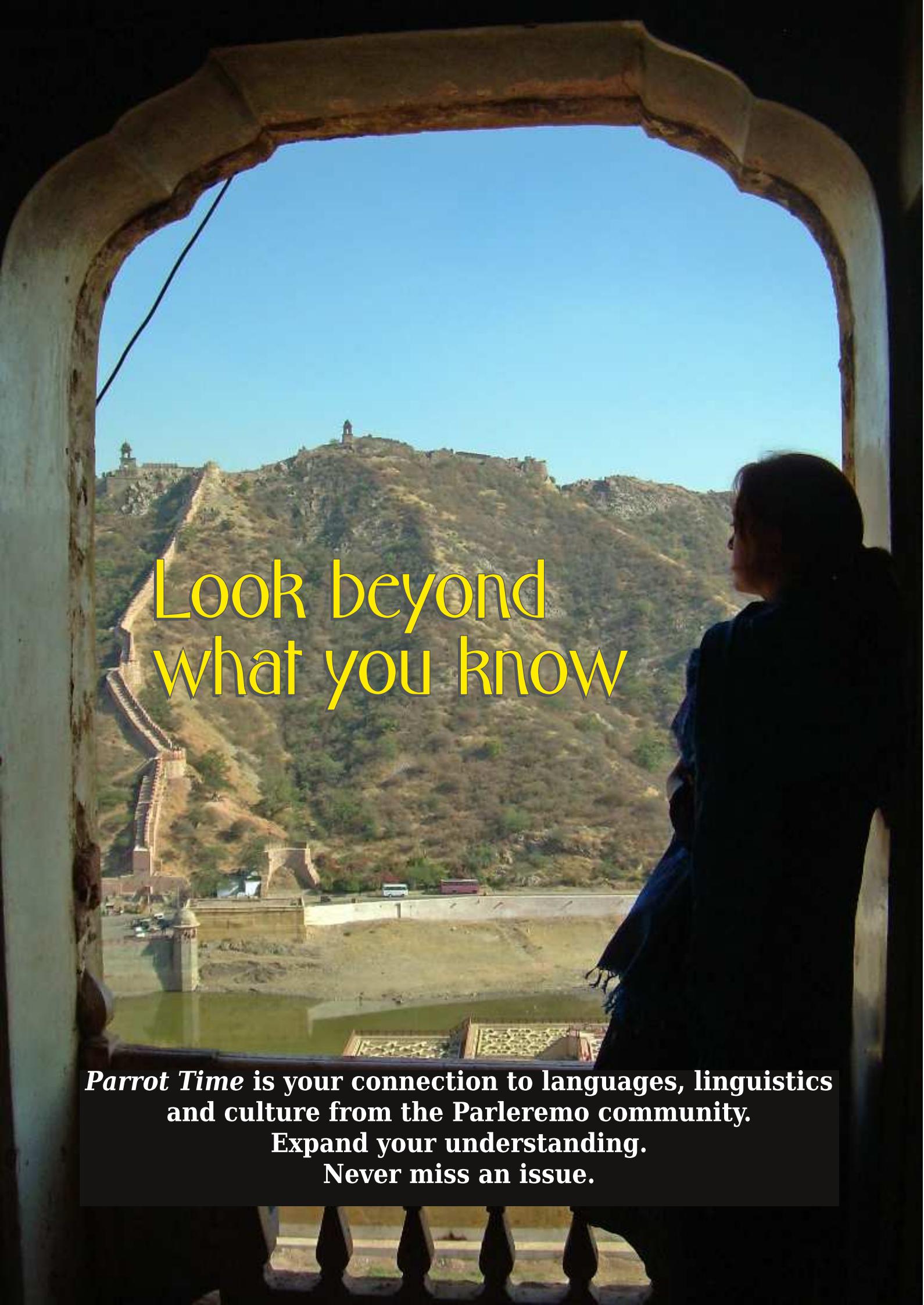
Issue #23 September / October 2016

Choose Which
Languages To Learn
Six ways to figure it out

Learning Spanish
Eldon Mirjah shares his thoughts and secrets

Norwegian History
Explore the adventure and intrigue of the Birkebeinerne





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what you know**

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Parrot Time

Parrot Time is a magazine covering language, linguistics and culture of the world around us.

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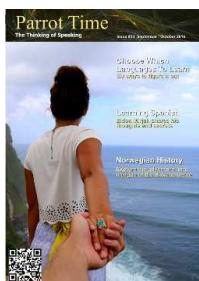
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Cover: As we travel around the world and through life, we often need someone who will guide us as well as pull us forward. We also need someone who will keep us grounded. Which are you?

Features



6 Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn

Deciding to learn a language is easy. Deciding which language to learn is a bit trickier. Teddy Nee offers six methods you can use to make the choice.



14 Learning Spanish: The trials, the tribulations and one triumphant learning hack

When studying Spanish, there are some things which make it easier and some things which make it harder than other languages. Guest writer Eldon Mirjah tells us a few and his suggestion for getting an edge.



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Historical fictions provide us with both entertainment and education. Learn about Norwegian history and have an adventure with The Last King.



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আপনি বাংলা বলতে পারনে?

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Make friends,
Have fun!*

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Hope and Failing

As we head into the second half of 2016, I can't help but reflect on my time with Parrot Time.

We started this magazine at the start of 2013, meaning it has been in production for over three years. Producing a magazine like this is rewarding, but it is also difficult at times. Indeed, in the age of Facebook and blogs, any kind of regular publication seems almost archaic. I've wondered more than twice about whether it is worth continuing.

This year has seen many changes me, and there are bigger ones on the way, and while I know I will find a way to confront them, I am fearful that Parrot Time might suffer during the transition period.

Part of this concern stems from my knowledge of how easy it is for even the most promising of periodicals to become abandoned. One, in particular, was the language magazine "Schwa Fire". It was being created by an established professional writer, had thousands of dollars backing it to due to a very successful crowdfunding campaign, and was earning the praise of the press.

However, when I went to see how it was doing after a few years, I was shocked to find the website for it broken, the Facebook page for it having no new postings since 2015, and not one person able to say what happened to it. Even the creator seems to have vanished.

If a work as promising and well supported as that can fail, what hope does a humble work like this have of enduring?

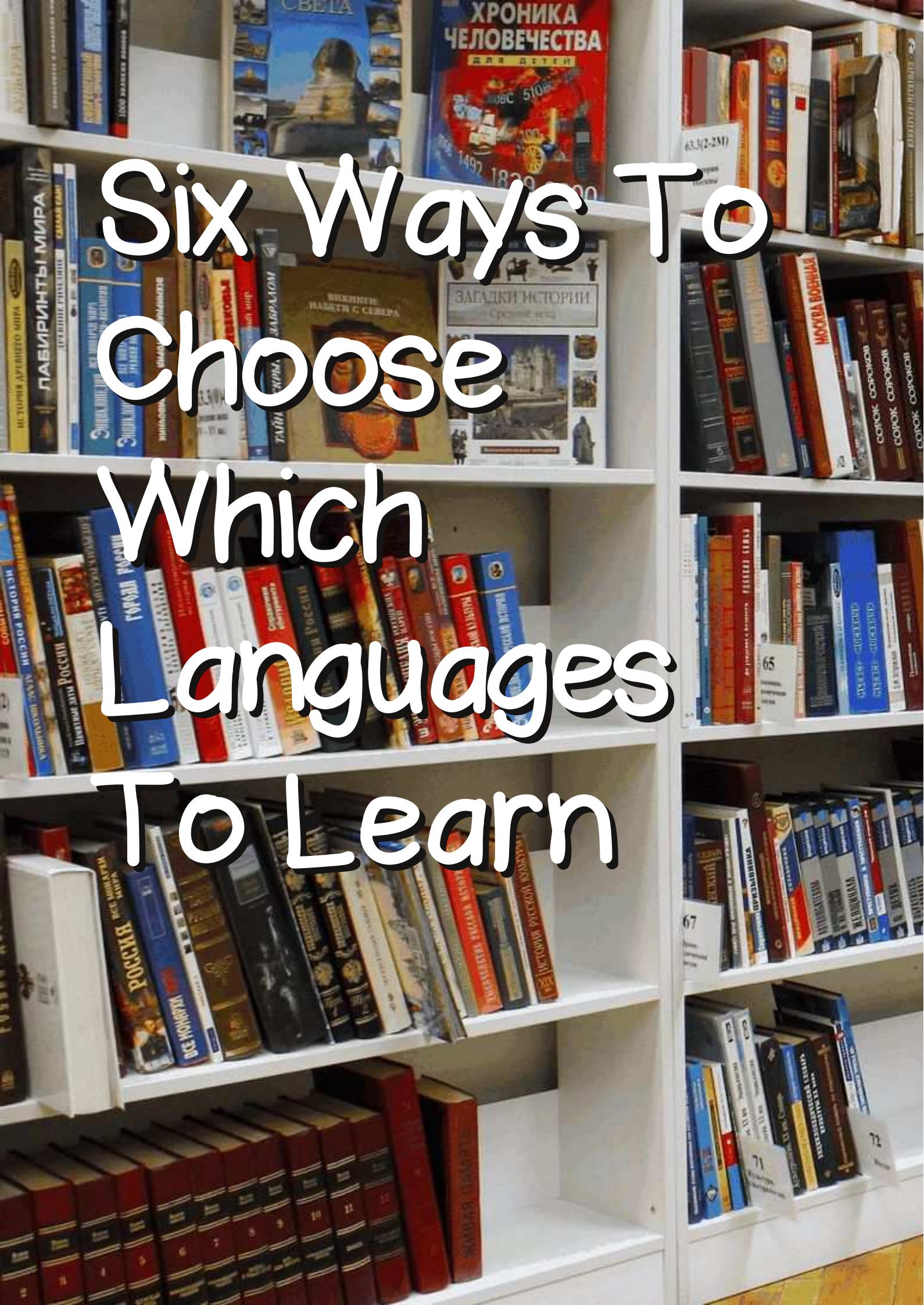
That hope is you. As long as we have the support of our readers, I promise to do my best to keep this little language vehicle on the rails.



Erik Zidowecki

ERIK ZIDOWECKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn





by Teddy Nee

Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn

Most of us usually learn foreign languages at school. Some learn only one language, some learn even three languages (like me, I learned English, Chinese Mandarin, and German). Not everyone succeeds in learning languages at school, so some will choose to leave it. If you are one of a few that still want to continue the learning, congratulations, because it is really not easy to maintain the motivation.

In my case, English and Chinese Mandarin are mandatory courses, and German and Japanese are optional courses. Students are allowed to choose only one of either German or Japanese, or both. I chose German believing it must be easier to learn than Japanese because German uses Latin alphabets, and my English was better than my Chinese Mandarin.

Let's put aside the school story and say you are done with school language course and want to learn the next foreign language. How will you make the decision to choose which language to learn? I have compiled six references that can help you decide your next language.

1. Similarity

I am on a vacation in Malaysia as I am writing this article, and I can go anywhere easily by speaking only Indonesian. Languages spoken in Malaysia are not only Malay but also Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Tamil, Punjabi, Bengali, English, etc depending on the area. Malay and Indonesian are very similar, if not identical. However, speakers of both languages can still notice distinct differences, such as accent and vocabulary.

You can choose to learn languages that are similar with yours or the ones you already know. You can even understand large portions of the language before learning it, and using the word "to learn" is actually not correct because in fact, you just need to adjust yourself to the target language.

The advantage of learning similar languages is saving time and the disadvantage is you will tend to mix words from both languages.

2. Prestige

Believe it or not, some of us learn a certain language because knowing that language brings prestige. For instance, many of my fe-





male friends think that being able to speak French is so amazing because the language sounds romantic. Another example is being able to speak a certain language means that you have a higher social status.

Prestigious languages are usually major or popular languages. Be it English, French, or the others, you can learn them easily right now on the internet. You can search for any language classes, learning materials, or even native speakers.

3. Importance

One of many reasons to learn a foreign language is for job purposes. You should put this language on top of the list if you need it at work. There are many foreigners in Taiwan that work as overseas sales officers because their language skill is a valuable asset, supplementing their knowledge of the countries of the foreign market where the company does business.

If you are not a native English speaker, and you work as an overseas sales officer, English would likely be the language you use to communicate with foreign clients. In this

case, improving your English should be your priority. If you are a native English speaker, you may choose not to learn foreign languages because everyone is learning and would be happy to speak English with you, however, I still encourage you to learn foreign languages because it is always better to know more languages.

Learning available languages in your surrounding lets you practice the language in real life even without leaving your area or country.

4. Availability

Check if any nearby public libraries or community centers offer language courses, or if there are any language institutions near your area. You can enrol yourself in the language course because learning in the class doesn't only provide you with a teacher to help but also classmates that you can practice with. Because everyone in the class is still learning

Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn



the language like you, you won't feel as much pressure when using the language since your classmates will also make mistakes.

There are many Southeast Asians from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines working in the city where I live in Taiwan. Some of them even married the Taiwanese and run restaurant businesses. In this case, I can speak these Southeast Asian languages with them every time I visit their restaurants.

Learning available languages in your surrounding lets you practice the language in real life even without leaving your area or country. Imagine how convenient it is! You can go to restaurant "A" and speak language "A" today, and go to restaurant "B" and speak language "B" tomorrow. It is also fun to do.

5. Same language group

Languages from the same group usually share similar characteristics. Several examples of language groups are Romance, Slavic, Germanic, and Austronesian. One of my native languages, Indonesian, belong to the Aus-

tronesian group, which is the same group with aboriginal languages of Taiwan, Malagasy in Africa, and even Polynesian languages in the Pacific Ocean.

Countries that are located nearby to each other usually have languages from the same group. If you find the same languages spoken by countries separated so far away, it is because of colonization or migration. For example, Dutch is also spoken in the Caribbean countries and Suriname in South America besides the Netherlands; a **Dutch creole**, called Afrikaans, is spoken in Namibia and South Africa; and according to what I have read, there are even endangered or extinct Dutch creoles in Java.

You can find some advantages of learning languages from the same group such as what you can have when learning similar languages, with a wider scope of languages to choose. However, note that languages from the same group are not always similar.

6. For fun

Why don't you learn languages for fun? It may

Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn

sound like a daunting task to do because learning one language is already difficult, but believe me, the more you spend time to learn a language, and the more you use it, the more you will be motivated to learn more languages. It is because once you know a language, it is easier to learn another. This is because you would have understood about how languages work, and learn the similarities with other languages.

Some people like to create languages, so called constructed languages (conlangs). The fun behind creating conlangs and knowledge sharing is the motivation for some conlangers. Some examples of conlangs are Navi, Klingon, and Elvish, which are created for movies or books. There are also languages created for academic purposes, like Toki Pona and Lingua Franca Nova (elefen), and created as auxiliary languages, like Esperanto, Interlingua, Novial, and Volapuk.

Esperanto is by far the largest constructed language ever used on the earth. There are even native Esperanto speakers! **PT**

Teddy is an avid language learner, blogger, engineer, and a collector. He has a dream to make this world a better place through language learning.

Apart from learning languages, he also likes reading and playing ukulele. You can speak with him in Medan Hokkien, Indonesian, English, Chinese Mandarin, Spanish, and Esperanto. Visit his blog at

www.neeslanguageblog.com





Reading in a foreign language made easy

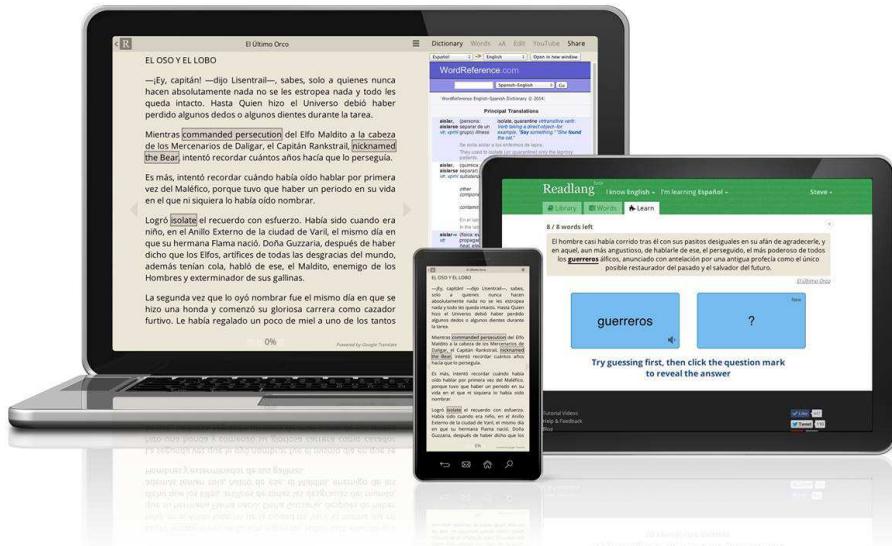


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Learning Spanish

The trials, the
tribulations
and one
triumphant
learning hack

by Eldon Mirjah

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back with a white headband. She is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and is sitting down, playing a classical acoustic guitar. Her gaze is directed downwards towards the instrument. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a textured wall.

Spanish - it's the language of passion, of love and of a beautiful tapestry of cultures. Spoken by more than 400 million people worldwide, it comes an impressive second on the most common of all - out pipping English by more than 25 million speakers. Little wonder then that it serves as such a fascinating language to learn, yet it's not without its unique challenges for those that take on the feat of mastering Spanish.

The trials

Spanish presents quite the collective of challenges to conquer. Here's a brief summary of some of the core stumbling blocks for the typical learner...

1. Spanish is a rapidly spoken language

Spanish is the second fastest spoken language of all - being outdone only by Japanese [Time Magazine].

2. Spanish is a language of an almost innumerable number of accents and dialects

In Mexico alone there are 10 varieties of Spanish, whilst Argentina features five dialects, and three subset dialects.

3. Spanish from Spain is a whole lot different to Spanish from elsewhere

Spanish speakers who hail from Spain sound a world apart when it comes to their South and Central American counterparts. Most notable of all between these two sides of the Atlantic is the rhythm with which the words are spoken.

4. Gender agreement can be a little confusing

As Spanish is one of the five Romance languages, its Latin roots do it little favor for easy gender structures. For the average learner, this means a whole lot of grappling with nouns, as well as inanimate objects, as they try to decipher which is feminine and which should be masculine.

5. An alien letter and topsy-turvy punctuation

Spanish has a single letter that isn't found in any other alphabet: Ñ. Given that it's a single letter, you may well think this a simple thing to learn, yet there are also double LLs to master too, and other things such as rr and ch. Then there's also the double punctuation - featured at the start and end of an exclamation or interrogative.

i¿qué?! (*What?!*)



The tribulations

The rewards for learning Spanish are as richly diverse as the native people who speak it. Here's a summary of some of the most compelling reasons to tackle the challenges that accompany this language.

1. Spanish words are phonetic

It's not all bad - Spanish has one thing that many, many other languages don't - and that is that Spanish words are pronounced the way they are written.

2. Spanish peoples are notoriously open to helping you learn

Native speakers of the Spanish language are known for their friendliness toward those learning Spanish.

3. You can forget about the past (verbs)

If you've attempted to tackle either Italian or French, then you may have been confused

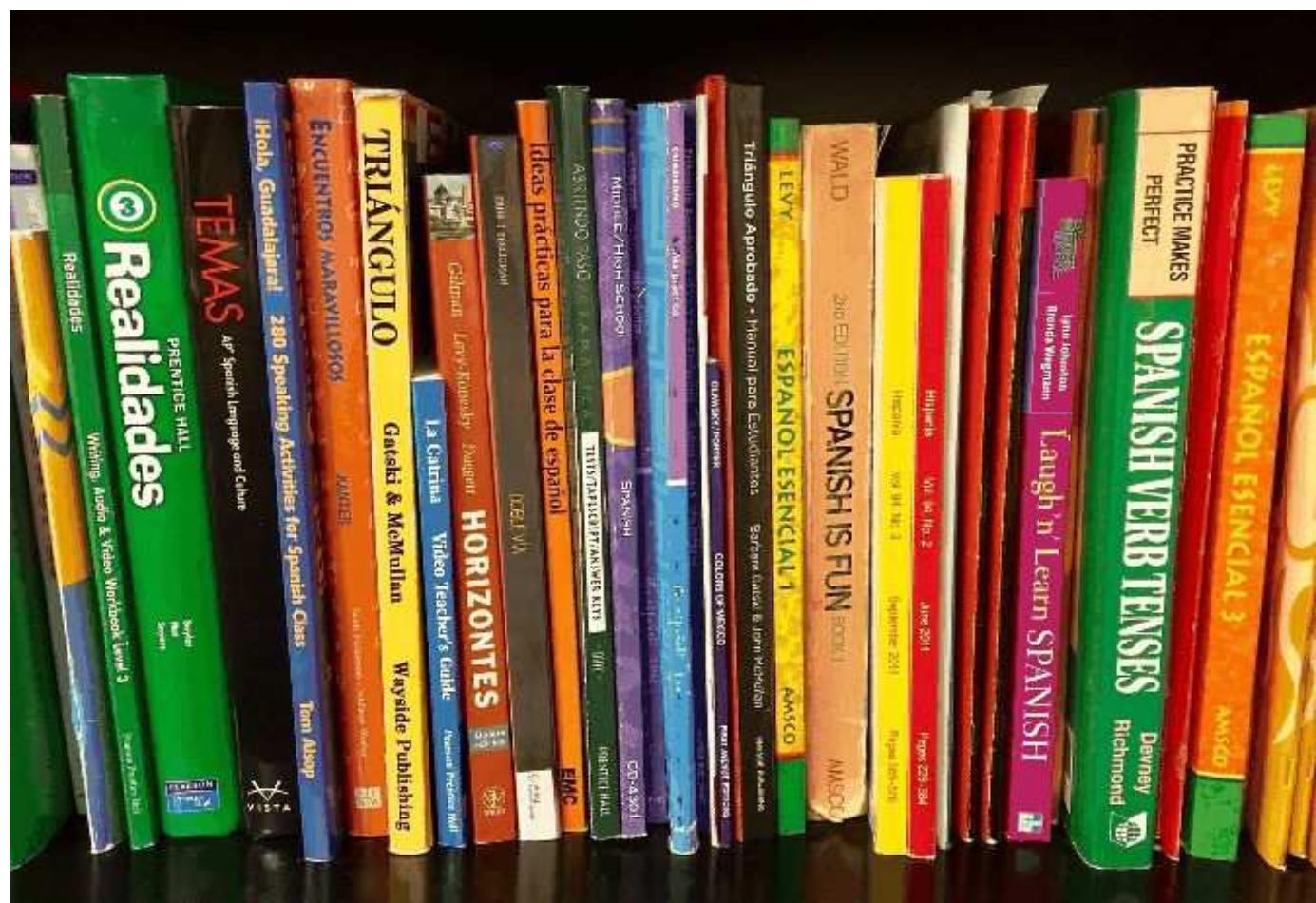
about the past tense verbs. Thankfully, Spanish only has two common forms of the past: *preterit* (which represents completed actions) and the *imperfect*.

4. Plurals are easy as pie, too (well, almost)

Spanish has a few things in common with English, not least of which is the similar approach to plurals. In Spanish, you simply add -s or -es to the end if you're dealing with a noun. The only exception is where the noun ends in -ión or -z (much like in English when nouns end in S). However, this topic is easily understood over the course of a lesson or two.

5. Spanish shares many words with English that are either the same, or very similar

These words include: actor, admirable, agenda, alcohol, altar, animal, area, artificial and auto - and those are just the As!





The triumphant learning hack

Now that you can appreciate both sides of the coin when it comes to the trials and tribulations of Spanish, wouldn't it be great if you could overcome the challenges that we've covered with one learning hack tactic?

For this, in steps street Spanish. If you've not heard of "street learning" before, then here's how it works: the term literally means to learn by listening to those who are found in the cities, towns and streets of Spanish speakers around the world. It is authentic, passionate and inclusive.

Street Spanish today

Street learning gained its name from those who immersed themselves in the Spanish culture first hand, traveling abroad whilst learning. Today, however, Street Spanish is far more accessible by digital means (so you needn't leave your job and book a plane ticket just yet).

When it comes to Spanish, it tackles the issues with speed, dialect and accents by allowing listeners to hone their ears as they learn. Rather than learning traditionally which moves at a snail's pace and only involves well-spoken Spanish speakers. This does away with the shock to the system that many learners can get when they arrive on holiday, only to find the Spanish speaking people there seemingly talking another language altogether.

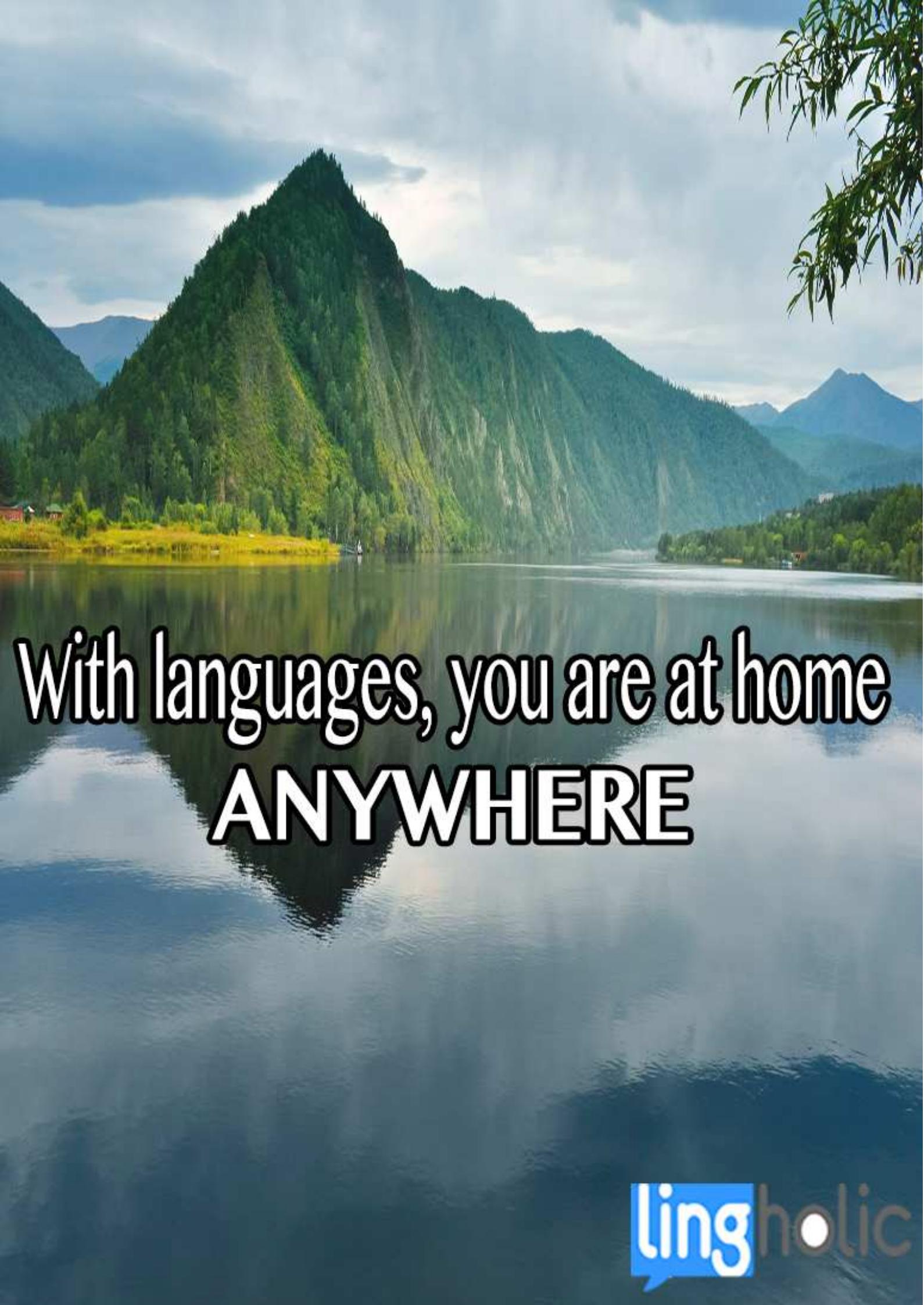
A fun and engaging listening and reading audio program such as Gritty Spanish will be

super helpful once you decide to step away from some of the typical programs out on the market. Gritty Spanish is the gold standard if you want to understand the type of Spanish the way a typical Spanish speaking person speaks it.

But then there's the sticky issue of gender agreement. This notoriously tough nut to crack can demand much study, repetitive exercises and soul sapping activities. By comparison, street learning provides real-life situations, with gender agreement placed into the context of an entire scene, alongside which can be a transcript which allows learners to read as they follow the scene. This latter point also helps when it comes to that tricky Ñ, which will inevitably be heard and read, in context, in a scene where "normal" ns feature.

All in all, it's little wonder that Street Spanish may be considered the ultimate learning hack when tackling the language of passion and of many diverse peoples. **PT**

Eldon Mirjah is the creator of Gritty Spanish, www.grittyspanish.com. Gritty Spanish is a course that's entirely based on informal learning - where students get to grips with the language through urban stories - featuring the eccentric, the bizarre and the real-life. This is a form of learning that is defined by storytelling.

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, surrounded by lush green forests and towering mountains. In the distance, a small town with several buildings is nestled among the trees. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

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The Last King
1h 39min
(R) Action / Adventure / Drama
17 June 2016 (USA)

Country: Norway / Denmark / Sweden / Ireland / Hungary
Language: Norwegian

The film is beautifully done, with great detail given to historical accuracy, and the Norwegian scenery is breathtaking.

The film in review this issue is Birkebeinerne, or The Last King. It is based upon an historical event in Norse history when a civil war was threatening the ancient Kingdom.

Around the year 1200, two opposing groups were trying to gain control of all of Norway. The Birkebeins held most of Norway but the Bagler's had power in the East. When King Håkon Sverresson (Håkon III of Norway) died in 1204, the power of the Birkebeins was weakened, as he had no apparent heirs.

This is essentially where the film begins. The King is killed by poison from his father's former queen who wishes power again and is working with Gisle, one of the King's nephews. Gisle then accuses his brother, Inge, of the murder, and has him imprisoned, planning to then announce himself as the new king.

That was the plan, at least, for as the King dies, he tells both Inge and Gisle that he has an heir from a woman, Inga of Varteig.

While this is happening, the Bagler's are crossing Norway to the seat of power in Nidaros (modern day Trondheim), looting and killing along the way. Among those fleeing

is Inga and the heir, Håkon Håkonsson. She is accompanied by two warriors, Skjervald and Torstein. Believing them to be safe, Skjervald leaves to return to his own wife and child.

Gisle sends word to the advancing Baglers that there is an heir, and they set out a hunting party to find and kill the baby. One of their first stops is Skjervald's home, where they force him to reveal where the heir has been taken by threatening to kill his wife and child, which they do anyways. Skjervald manages to escape, however, and flees to warn the others at the fort first.

When the fort is attacked, Inga and the baby get separated, forcing Skjervald and Torstein to take the infant king themselves. They are pursued for days before finally managing to elude or kill most of their followers, but Torstein is wounded.



Skjervald being forced to reveal the baby's location

At the Cinema - The Last King (Birkebeinerne)



Torstein spotting Skjervald from the fort

They are reunited with Inga in a farm stronghold and Torstein's wound is tended to. Meanwhile, Gisle has announced that the baby heir has been killed in a storm and so he will now become King, taking the former King's daughter, Kristin, as his bride, to continue the bloodline.

Time is running out. The Bagler's will soon overrun the farm and kill the baby unless they can get him to Nidaros before Gisle weds an unwilling Kirstin. Will they make it?

When I started watching this film, the first thing that struck me was that the main method of crossing the snow by the Birkebeins was skiing. They whooshed over the landscape wielding spears and bows, for travel and fighting. I had no idea that skis had been around that long. Research after that revealed that not only did the Norse indeed use skis, but that cave paintings and other evidence show skis have been used around for over five thousand years.

I did not know the historical event behind the story, so I researched it afterward. The film made a few changes. First, the heir king had not been born at the time of the King's death (which only *may* have been caused by poison).



Skjervald and Torstein watching for their pursuers

Secondly, the character of Gisle was based upon the real Jarl "Håkon the Crazy". The reason for the name change was to avoid further confusion since there was already two Håkons (King and son). Also Jarl Håkon never directly opposed his brother Inge for the throne.

The film is beautifully done, with great detail given to historical accuracy, and the Norwegian scenery is breathtaking. The only language used is Norwegian, but I wouldn't expect differently considering the location and time period.

For some reason, the film has an R rating, which I can only assume is for the violence, since there is no nudity or abundance of swearing. Even the violence is of the "little blood" variety.

I would highly recommend *The Last King* to anyone who likes historical fiction or just loves watching medieval chase scenes on skis.

PT



The Balgers riding in to attack



Torstein, Inga, and baby Håkon

Language Boat

immersion language learning

Language Boat is a blog about language learning in natural environments. Here you will find personal narratives about language learning experiences, in addition to tips, ideas, technical stuff like grammar, pronunciation, etc., cultural observations, and language resources.



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scarf-knitting, tongue-twisting,
car-stalling and sheep-stalking
attempts to understand
what it means to be Faroese.



landofmaybe.wordpress.com



Celebrations

Birkebeinerrennet

Skiing is a very popular sport around the world, both cross-country and downhill, but for Norwegians, it is also a means of celebrating one of their most important events in history.

Each year, thousands of people participate in the *Birkebeinerrennet*, a long distance cross-country ski marathon, held in Norway to commemorate the saving of the infant heir to the Norwegian throne, Håkon Håkonsson, in 1206, by Birkebeiner loyalists.

History

Around the start of 13th century, Norway was divided by two fighting factions: the Birkebeins, who held most of Norway including the throne, and the Bagler's, who had power in the East and were seeking control.

In 1206, when the King died with no apparent heir, massive war was imminent. When it was revealed there was indeed an heir, in the form of an illegitimate son of the King, a group of Birkebeiner soldiers smuggled the infant from Lillehammer to safety in Trondheim. They did this over the harsh landscape on skis.

For more information, watch the movie *The Last King*, which is reviewed in this issue.

Modern Day

The race covers a distance of 54 km and runs from Rena to Lillehammer. It has been held since 1932 and each year, the number of participants has increased until at last a limit of 16,000 was introduced in 2011.

Each participant carries with them a backpack weighing 3.5kg or more, representing the weight of the young king. They may

also carry extra clothing and food, as a precaution for the trip over the challenging terrain.

Twice the race has been cancelled due to dangerous weather, but a large number of participants in it still completed it, then complained about the decision to cancel it.

American Birkebeinerrennet

There is also an American version of the race, nicknamed the *Birkie*, which is largest cross-country ski race in North America. It is held each year in Wisconsin and was started in 1973 by Tony Wise as a means of promoting skiing for his business. Wise deliberately chose to base it around the Norwegian event, giving it the same historical significance.

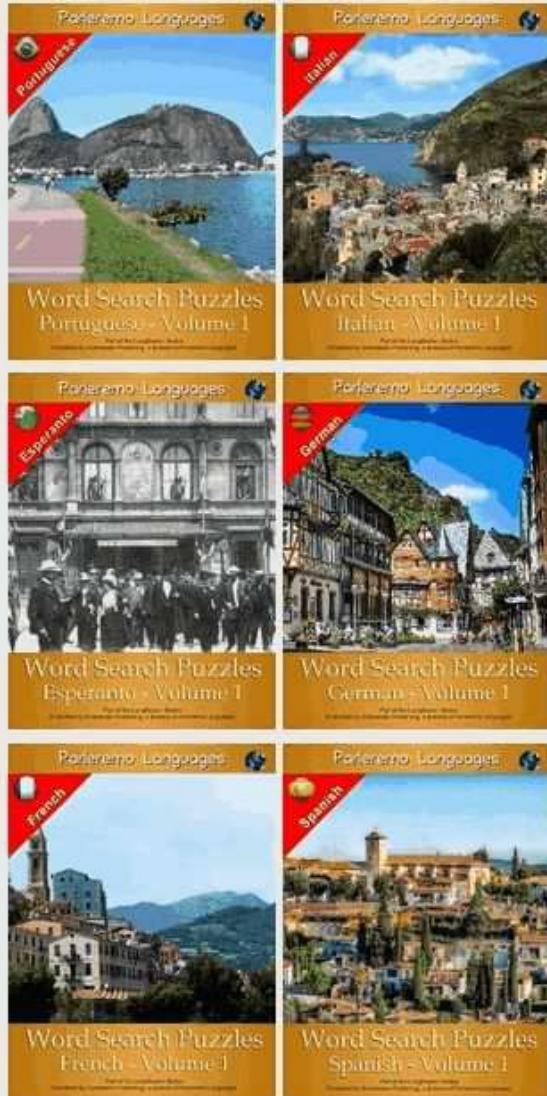
It has become very popular with skiers from around the world, as they come to Hayward, Wisconsin each year for it. The *Birkie* attracts skiers of varying ability levels, from recreational participants to Olympians and national team members. **PT**



Skiing Birchlegs Crossing the Mountain with the Royal Child, 1869. Painting depicting Birkebeiner skiers carrying Prince Haakon to safety during the winter of 1206.

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Where Are You?

This city, like many we feature here, is both the capital and largest city of its country. It is located on the northern coast of the country, just 80 km from the bordering country's capital, with only a gulf of water dividing the two.

The city was founded in 1248, but has human settlements dating back over 5,000 years, which makes it one of the oldest capital cities of Northern Europe. It became a major trade hub, reaching a peak between the 14th and 16th centuries, largely because of its strategic location. It has only had its current name since 1918. Before that, for almost 800 years, it was known as Reval.

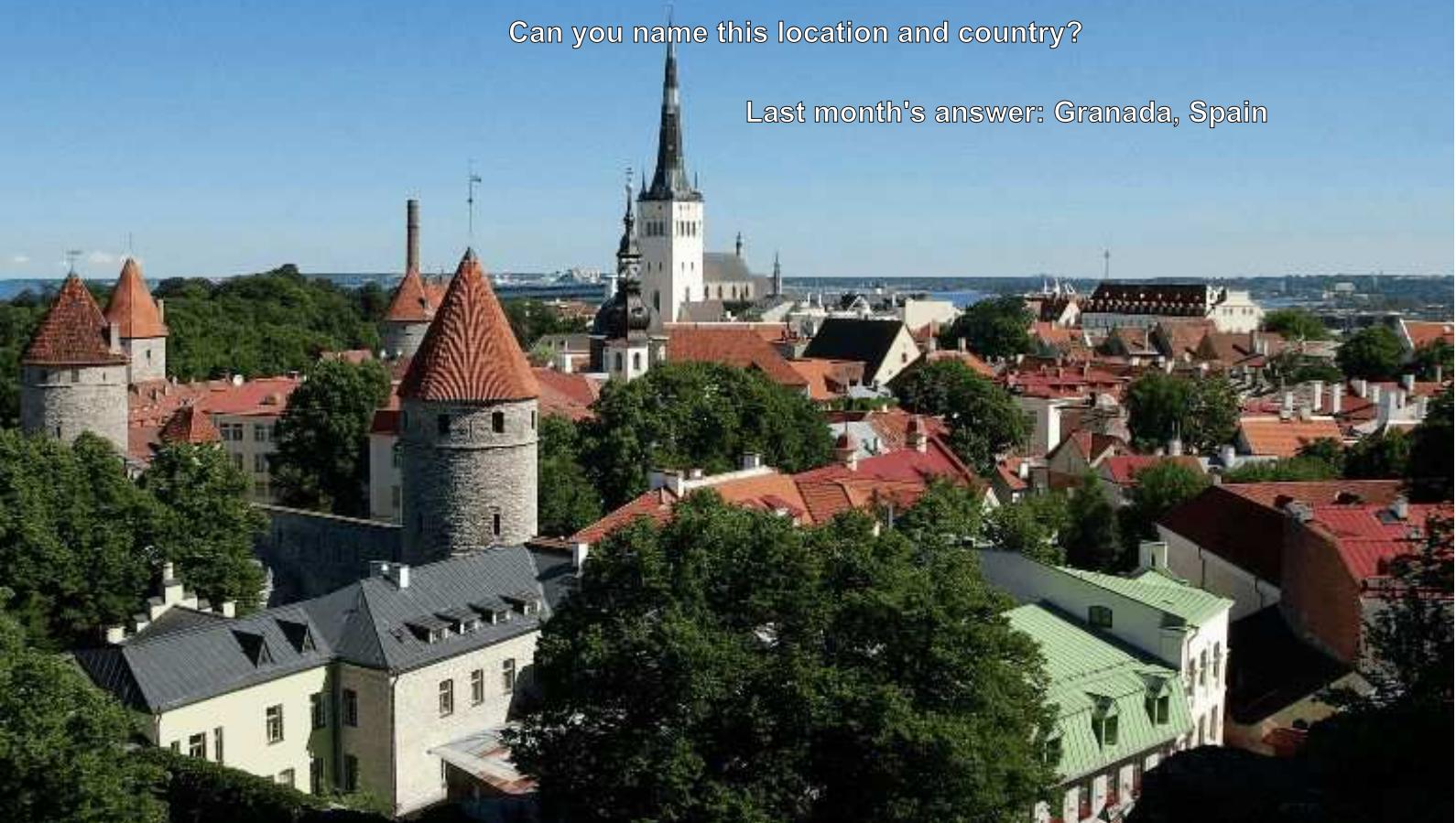
A symbol of the city is an old warrior called Old Thomas, which was first displayed as a weather vane on the top of the spire of the town hall in 1530. The older parts of the city is still one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, placing it on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

Simultaneously, it is has been called the “Silicon Valley of Europe”, having the highest number of startup companies per person in Europe. If you have ever talked to a language friend via Skype, then you have used technology that was developed there. This ancient city is one of the top 10 digital cities of the world.

Annually, the city receives over 4 million visitors, and the figure continues to rise. It brings in largely tourists from Europe, but there has also been an increase in people coming from Russia and Asia-Pacific regions. It is also one of the busiest cruise destinations on the Baltic Sea.

Can you name this location and country?

Last month's answer: Granada, Spain



Book Look

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by Langenscheidt Publishing

Language: Varied

Item Rating: 

The Langenscheidt publishing company is one of the most famous among German dictionary producers. It was founded in 1856 by Gustav Langenscheidt and employed the finest philologists of the time. After Gustav's death, his son Carl took over the company. Besides its popular line of bilingual dictionaries, Langenscheidt also offers phrase books and cards as well as a line of educational language products. This article will be focusing on the dictionaries.

Most people know of two varieties of the Langenscheidt dictionaries: the larger ones which include other reference material, and the smaller "soft cover" ones, usually called "universal". The smaller versions come in a variety of colors for the older ones, while the newer are an unmistakable yellow. I have one of the larger versions in my collection and almost a dozen of the smaller ones.

There are a few formatting differences between the two types. Each main entry is left justified and in bold type, while the definitions are slightly indented, so it's easy to see where each entry begins. I have seen some that reverse this, making the entry word indented, and they are much harder to read. Sometimes there is a pronunciation guide in brackets (pocket version) or parenthesis (larger), depending on whether the word closely matches the pronunciation rules of the dictionary or not. For example, in the Universal Italian-English dictionary, the Italian entries rarely need pronunciation guides, since Italian adheres rather strictly to its pro-

nunciation standard, while the English entries almost always contain a pronunciation guide because English pronunciation is so variable.



Sample Entry

hydro | carbon lhaidrou-] idrocarbon
m ~chloric cloridico; *~gen* idrogeno *m*;
~gen bomb bomba *f* all'idrogeno; *~plane idrovولante m* *~therapy idroterapeutica f*

The word's functions (adj, vb., n, adv., etc.) are italicized. The entry's meaning or meanings are then given, separated by commas if there is more than one. If more than one function is listed, those are separated by semicolons. Some entries have a bar (|) separating them. In those cases, in the definition section, there will be further entries, starting with a tilde (~), showing another version of the word, based upon the word preceding the bar and following the tilde. For example, "hydrocarbon" is listed as "hydro | carbon", and has listings for "~chloric", "~gen", "~gen bomb", etc.

In the larger dictionaries, the entries may be a bit more extensive, giving idioms and common phrases which are related to the entry. There are no etymologies, cross references, or synonyms, at least not in the versions I have.

The universal versions include a list of abbreviations used in the book, pronun-

ciation guides of the letters, and a list of irregular verbs, numerals, and some basic phrases. Of course, depending on the edition of the dictionary, the number and type of "extras" will vary.

The larger versions may include, along with what I already mentioned, a list of proper names, abbreviations of the languages, and measurements (ex. 1mm Millimeter millimetre = 1/1000 metre = 0.00010936 yard = 0.0032809 foot).

As for the number of entries, my smaller universal versions claim "over 30,000 entries" (I say "claim", because I am not counting them), while the larger version boasts the same number. This may sound odd, but it makes sense in that the smaller versions have less complete entries in many cases while still being based on the same data as the larger. Neither version includes words one could consider "vulgar".

The smaller versions are good for traveling around since they fit easily into your pocket. The larger versions are basically pocket-sized too, as long as you have large pockets.

The Langenscheidt dictionaries seem to be very popular since they often appear among language book collections I buy and are good for a quick look up. However, if you are working more extensively with a language, I would suggest something more in-depth, the Bantam being my personal favorites in this case.

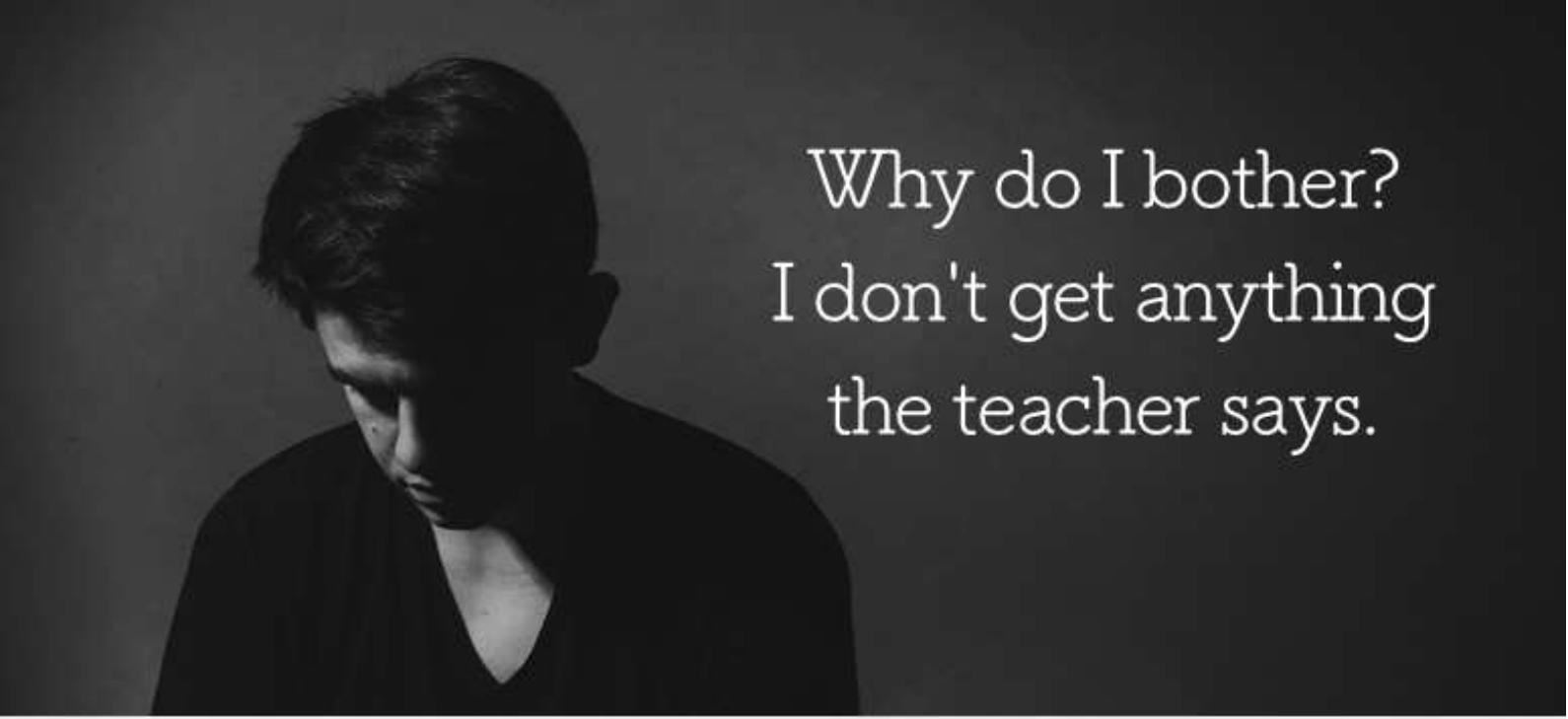
There is a third version of these dictionaries that I am familiar with: the Lilliput, getting its name from the city of tiny people in "Gulliver's Travels". These versions are incredibly tiny, being about 2ins (5cms) in length. At that size, they are more novelties than real books. I had a set for English-Italian once, but they were so small I misplaced them, and never found them again. **PT**



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the teacher says.

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Basic Guide to Swedish

Swedish is a Germanic language, spoken mainly in Sweden by about 9 million people. It is largely mutually intelligible with Norwegian and Danish.

Here are some beginner words and phrases in Swedish for a basic introduction to it.



Good morning.

God morgen.

Good afternoon.

God eftermiddag.

Good night.

God natt.

Hello.

Hej.

How are you?

Hur är det?

Fine, thank you.

Tack, jag mår bra.

What is your name?

Vad heter du?

My name is ...

Jag heter ...

Nice to meet you.

Trevligt att råkas.

Goodbye

Hejdå

Yes

Ja

No

Nej

Please.

Snälla

Thank you.

Tack.

You're welcome.

Ingen orsak.

I do not understand.

Jag förstår inte.

Where is the toilet?

Var är toaletten?

Excuse me.

Ursäkta mig.

I beg your pardon!

Förlåt!

I don't speak Italian.

Jag pratar inte svenska.

I speak a little Italian.

Jag pratar lite svenska.

Do you speak English?

Talar du engelska?

Help!

Hjälp!

Look out!

Se upp!

Have a nice day.

Ha en bra dag.



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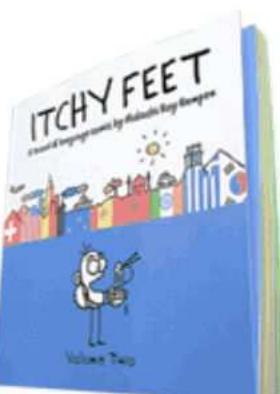
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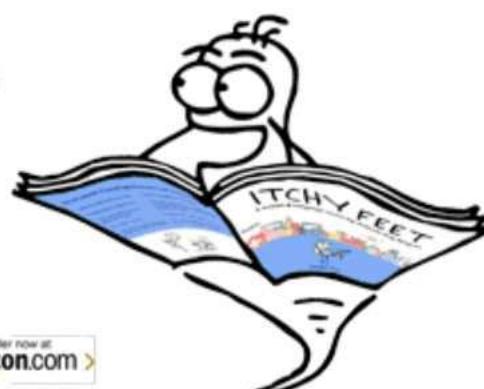
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At A Glance

General Language

Omniglot

Omniglot is an encyclopedia of writing systems and languages. This site has been around for a long time and is full of useful information on languages, writing systems, and more. It has a forum as well and a very active Facebook group.

<http://www.omniglot.com/>



Translators & Dictionaries

Dicts.info

Large collection of dictionaries for many world languages. Dictionaries are freely available online for all users. Language software allows for use of many dictionaries offline.

<http://www.dicts.info/>



Language Communities

LingQ

"LingQ is a vibrant community of passionate, enthusiastic language learners and native speaker tutors. The combination of awesome people and effective methodology make LingQ the best place to learn a language."

<https://www.lingq.com/en/>



Language Schools and Institutes

Language Proficiency Tests Online

Transparent Language provides this opportunity for you to test your proficiency level in various foreign languages. We have based this test on the standard grammar and vocabulary that you would find in any language-learning materials.

<http://www.transparent.com/language-resources/tests.html>



Specific Language

Speakdutch.nl

SpeakDutch.nl is voluntary effort with a mission to offer free Dutch lessons to anyone, anywhere. All time invested in developing the site is therefore fully voluntary.

<http://www.speakdutch.nl/>

Dutch



LearnPolishFeelGood.com

"Welcome to LearnPolishFeelGood.com! Polish grammar can be quite difficult, but practising with our grammar and vocabulary tests will help you on your way to becoming fluent."

<http://www.learnpolishfeelgood.com/>

Polish



Newspapers & Magazines

Il Messaggero

Most popular daily newspaper in Rome and central Italy; from Rome.

<http://www.ilmessaggero.it/>

Italian



Haribhoomi

Hindi daily newspaper simultaneously published from Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Hari Bhoomi is a Member of Indian News Paper Society & Audit Bureau of Circulations.

<http://www.haribhoomi.com/>

Hindi



Credits

Letter From the Editor

Writer: Erik Zidowecki

Images: Petey: Magazine spread

Six Ways To Choose Which Languages To Learn

Writer: Teddy Nee

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Learning Spanish: The trials, the tribulations and one triumphant learning hack

Writer: Eldon Mirjah

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At The Cinema - The Last King (Birkebeinerne)

Writer: Erik Zidowecki

Sources:

- "The Last King" Internet Movie Database <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4738360/>>

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Celebrations - Birkebeinerrennet

Writer: Sonja Krüger

Images: Petey: Ski poles; Painting

Sources:

- "Birkebeinerrennet" Wikipedia <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birkebeinerrennet>>

- "American Birkebeiner" Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Birkebeiner>

Where Are You?

Writer: Sonja Krüger

Images: Petey: Mystery image

Book Look - Langenscheidt Dictionaries

Writer: Erik Zidowecki

Basic Guide to Swedish

Writer: Erik Zidowecki

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At A Glance**Writer:** Erik Zidowecki

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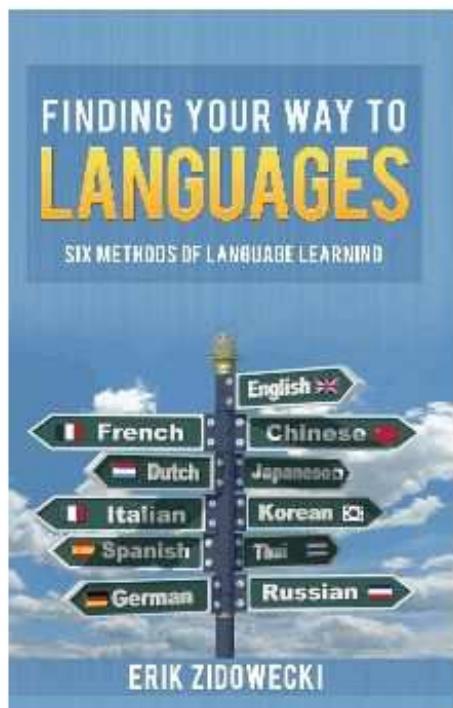


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This book won't teach you any secrets, any overnight paths to fluency. What it will give you is a solid understanding of what the strengths and weaknesses are of each approach, allowing you, the reader, to find your own way to languages.

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